

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite a monomer unit represented by formula a-29, a-33, a-34, a-35 or a-36.

Claims 11 and 12 were previously canceled.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-10 and 13 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 909 657 A2 (“EP ‘657”). Further, claims 1-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 1 219 464 A2 (“EP ‘464”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the cited references. As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a copolymer having a monomer unit represented by formula a-29, a-33, a-34, a-35 or a-36, and at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid esters and (meth)acrylamide derivatives. Neither EP ‘657 nor EP ‘464 disclose or suggest the copolymer of the present invention. Claims 2-10 and 13 are patentable over EP ‘657 and EP ‘464 at least by virtue of their dependency.

Applicants note that infrared sensitive lithographic printing plates provide superior results in comparison to conventional plates. Compare the results of Examples 32 to 37 in Table 1 at

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No.: 10/743,412
Attorney Docket No.: Q79133

page 90 of the specification to the results for Comparative Examples 1 to 3. See also the discussion of the results at page 91.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

/Fang Liu/
Fang Liu
Registration No. 51,283

Date: October 23, 2006